

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In the Matter of the Search Regarding No. 4:20-mj-96


20-115-04

**REDACTED APPLICATION FOR
SEARCH AND SEIZURE WARRANT**

I, Daniel Byron, being duly sworn depose and say:

I am a Task Force Officer with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and have reason to believe that within the records fully described in Attachment A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, there is now concealed certain property, namely: that fully described in Attachment B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, which I believe is property constituting evidence of the commission of criminal offenses, contraband, the fruits of crime, or things otherwise criminally possessed, or property designed or intended for use or which is or has been used as the means of committing criminal offenses concerning violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846.

The facts to support a finding of Probable Cause are contained in my Affidavit filed herewith.



Daniel Byron, Special Agent
Drug Enforcement Administration

Subscribed and sworn to telephonically on the 16th day of November, 2020.



VERONICA L. DUFFY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

In the Matter of the Search Regarding

No. 4:20-mj-96

20-115-04

**REDACTED AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT
OF AN APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH
AND SEIZURE WARRANT**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
 :SS
COUNTY OF MINNEAPOLIS)

I, Daniel Byron, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application for a search warrant for information associated with a certain cellular telephone assigned call number [REDACTED] (“**Target Cell Phone**”) that is stored at premises controlled by T-Mobile a wireless telephone service provider headquartered at P.O. Box 94503, Seattle, WA, 98124. The information to be searched is described in the following paragraphs and in Attachment A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. This affidavit is made in support of an application for a search warrant under 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c)(1)(A) to require T-Mobile to disclose to the government copies of the information further described in Section I of Attachment B, Attachment B is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. Upon receipt of the information described in Section I of Attachment B, government-authorized persons will review the information to locate items described in Section II of Attachment B.

2. I am a Task Force Officer with the United States Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and have been so employed since December of 2019. I am

currently assigned to the DEA Sioux Falls Resident Office (SFRO), and I am empowered to conduct investigations of drug trafficking and money laundering violations under Titles 18 and 21 of the United States Code. I have participated in various types of drug trafficking based and related investigations, including controlled drug buy operations, applications for, and executions of, search warrants involving the seizure of controlled substances and proceeds from the sale of illicit drugs, and interviews of person involved in drug trafficking conspiracies. I have also received additional training in methods used by drug trafficking organizations to legitimize proceeds from the sale of illicit drugs and the means that organizations employ to conceal proceeds of drug trafficking activity. In addition to my assignment as a Task Force Officer with the DEA, I have been a Special Agent with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) since August of 2008. Prior to my employment with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation I was a Special Agent with the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation from November of 2005 through August of 2008.

3. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other agents and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

4. I know from my training and experience that persons involved in the possession and distribution of controlled substances will often utilize vehicles not registered in their name and/or utilize rental vehicles to transport illegal substances, firearms, and monies in efforts to conceal their identity from law enforcement. They will also travel outside the State of South Dakota in furtherance of their illegal enterprise to obtain controlled substances, to pay for controlled substances, or to transport or spend the proceeds of the sale of controlled substances.

5. I know from my training and experience that individuals involved in the possession and distribution of controlled substances will often utilize electronic devices such as mobile telephones, electronic address books, computers, etc., to facilitate communications with and/or store names, addresses and/or telephone numbers of associates, customers and sources of supply.

6. Through training and experience, I know that many modern mobile telephones have the ability to create, send, receive, and store digital media files in the form of digital photographs, audio and video recordings, and written messages such as text messages or email. Through training and experience, I know that individuals involved in the possession and distribution of controlled substances will carry their cellular telephones on their person. Having the ability to have precise GPS location of that telephone will enable law enforcement to safely and surreptitiously conduct surveillance of their illegal narcotic activities. Through training and experience, I know that individuals involved in the possession and distribution of controlled substances will often change their cellular telephone numbers and/or acquire new cell phone numbers if they suspect it has been compromised and/or detected by law enforcement.

7. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, I believe there is probable cause to believe that violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846 have been committed, are being committed, and will be committed by the user of **Target Cell Phone**. There is also probable cause to believe that the location information described in Attachment B will constitute evidence of these criminal violations and will lead to the identification of individuals who are engaged in the commission of these offenses.

PROBABLE CAUSE

8. On [REDACTED], members of the DEA Sioux Falls Resident Office (SFRO) met with a Source of Information (SOI) who wished to remain anonymous. The SOI provided

information regarding the illicit drug trafficking activities of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9. On [REDACTED], the SOI again contacted SFRO agents, and identified the associate of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10. Upon receiving **Target Cell Phone** number for [REDACTED] agents issued a Department of Justice Administrative Subpoena for this telephone number to T-Mobile, the identified cellular carrier. T-Mobile subsequently provided subscriber/billing information for this account, which was found to be subscribed [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

11. On [REDACTED], at approximately 6:02 p.m., TFA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

12. On [REDACTED], DEA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

13. The [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Target Cell Phone number.

14. The user of the **Target Cell Phone** asked the [REDACTED]

15. At [REDACTED]

16. At [REDACTED]

17. At approximately [REDACTED]

18. Surveillance units noted that the [REDACTED]

19. At [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

20. At [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

21. Based on the foregoing, I believe that the **Target Cell Phone** is being used by an unknown [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

22. In my training and experience, I have learned that T-Mobile is a company that provides cellular communications service to the general public. I also know that providers of cellular communications service have technical capabilities that allow them to collect and generate information about the locations of the cellular devices to which they provide service, including cell-site data, also known as “tower/face information” or “cell tower/sector records.” Cell-site data identifies the “cell towers” (i.e., antenna towers covering specific geographic areas) that received a radio signal from the cellular device and, in some cases, the “sector” (i.e., faces of the towers) to which the device connected. These towers are often a half-mile or more apart, even in urban areas, and can be 10 or more miles apart in rural areas. Furthermore, the tower closest to a wireless

device does not necessarily serve every call made to or from that device. Accordingly, cell-site data provides an approximate general location of the cellular device.

23. Based on my training and experience, I know that T-Mobile can collect cell-site data on a prospective and historic basis about the **Target Cell Phone**. Based on my training and experience, I know that for each communication a cellular device makes, its wireless service provider can typically determine: (1) the date and time of the communication; (2) the telephone numbers involved, if any; (3) the cell tower to which the customer connected at the beginning of the communication; (4) the cell tower to which the customer was connected at the end of the communication; and (5) the duration of the communication. I also know that wireless providers such as T-Mobile typically collect and retain cell-site data pertaining to cellular devices to which they provide service in their normal course of business in order to use this information for various business-related purposes

24. Based on my training and experience, I know that some service providers can also collect per-call measurement data, which some refer to as the “real-time tool” (“RTT”). RTT data estimates the approximate distance of the cellular device from a cellular tower based upon the speed with which the signals travel between the device and the tower. This information can be used to estimate an approximate location range that is more precise than typical cell-site data.

25. Based on my training and experience, I know each cellular device has one or more unique identifiers embedded inside it. Depending on the cellular network and the device, the embedded unique identifiers for a cellular device could take several different forms, including an Electronic Serial Number (“ESN”), a Mobile Electronic Identity Number (“MEIN”), a Mobile Identification Number (“MIN”), a Subscriber Identity Module (“SIM”), a Mobile Subscriber Integrated Services Digital Network Number (“MSISDN”), an International Mobile Subscriber

Identifier (“IMSI”), or an International Mobile Equipment Identity (“IMEI”). The unique identifiers – as transmitted from a cellular device to a cellular antennae or tower – can be recorded by pen-trap devices and indicate the identity of the cellular device making the communication without revealing the communication’s content.

26. Based on my training and experience, I know that wireless providers such as T-Mobile typically collect and retain information about their subscribers in their normal course of business. This information can include basic personal information about the subscriber, such as name and address, and the method(s) of payment (such as credit card account number) provided by the subscriber to pay for wireless communication service. I also know that wireless providers such as T-Mobile typically collect and retain information about their subscribers’ use of the wireless service, such as records about calls or other communications sent or received by a particular device and other transactional records, in their normal course of business. In my training and experience, this information may constitute evidence of the crimes under investigation because the information can be used to identify the **Target Cell Phone**’s user or users and may assist in the identification of co-conspirators and/or victims.

AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

27. Based on the foregoing, I request that the Court issue the proposed search warrant, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(c) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41. The proposed warrant will also function as a pen register order under 18 U.S.C. § 3123 authorizing the installation and use of a pen register and/or trap and trace device to record, decode, and/or capture certain information in Attachment A for each communication to or from the SUBJECT ACCOUNT, without geographic limit, for a period of forty-five days (45) days pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3123(c)(1).

28. I further request that the Court direct T-Mobile to disclose to the Government any information described in Section I of Attachment B that is within its possession, custody, or control. Because the warrant will be served on T-Mobile, who will then compile the requested records at a time convenient to it, reasonable cause exists to permit the execution of the requested warrant at any time in the day or night.

29. I further request, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3103a(b) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(f)(3), that the Court authorize the officer executing the warrant to delay notice until 30 days after the collection authorized by the warrant has been completed. This delay is justified because there is reasonable cause to believe that providing immediate notification of the warrant may have an adverse result, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2705. Providing immediate notice to the subscriber or user of the **Target Cell Phone** would seriously jeopardize the ongoing investigation, as such a disclosure would give that person an opportunity to destroy evidence, change patterns of behavior, notify confederates, and flee from prosecution. Moreover, to the extent that the warrant authorizes the seizure of any tangible property, any wire or electronic communication (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2510), or any stored wire or electronic information, there is reasonable necessity for the seizure for the reasons set forth above.

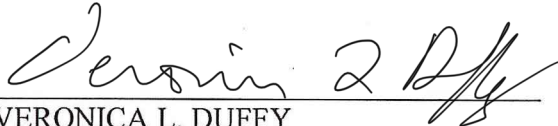
30. I further request that the Court direct T-Mobile to disclose to the government any information described in Section I of Attachment B that is within its possession, custody, or control. I also request that the Court direct T-Mobile, to furnish the government all information, facilities, and technical assistance necessary to accomplish the collection of the information described in Attachment B unobtrusively and with a minimum of interference with T-Mobile services, including by initiating a signal to determine the location of the **Target Cell Phone** on T-Mobile network or with such other reference points as may be reasonably available, and at such

intervals and times directed by the government. The government shall reasonably compensate T-Mobile for reasonable expenses incurred in furnishing such facilities or assistance. Because the warrant will be served on T-Mobile, who will then compile the requested records at a time convenient to it, reasonable cause exists to permit the execution of the requested warrant at any time in the day or night.



Daniel Byron, Task Force Officer
Drug Enforcement Administration

Sworn to telephonically on the 16th day of November, 2020.



VERONICA L. DUFFY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

REDACTED ATTACHMENT A

Property to be Searched

This warrant applies to records and information associated with the cellular telephone assigned call [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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20-115-04

**REDACTED SEARCH AND
SEIZURE WARRANT**

TO: ANY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

An application by a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government requests the search of records fully described in Attachment A, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

I find that the affidavit, or any recorded testimony, establish probable cause to search and seize the property described above, and that such search will reveal evidence of the commission of criminal offenses, contraband, the fruits of crime, or things otherwise criminally possessed, or property designed or intended for use or which is or has been used as the means of committing criminal offenses concerning violations of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 846, as fully described in Attachment B, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

YOU ARE COMMANDED to execute this warrant on or before

11-30-2020

(not to exceed 14 days)

☒ in the daytime - 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

☐ at any time in the day or night as I find reasonable cause has been established.

Unless delayed notice is authorized below, you must give a copy of the warrant and a receipt for the property taken to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken, or leave the copy and receipt at the place where the property was taken.

The officer executing this warrant, or an officer present during the execution of the warrant, must prepare an inventory as required by law and promptly return this warrant and inventory to the undersigned Judge.

☐ for _____ days (not to exceed 30).

☐ until, the facts justifying, the later specific date of _____.

11-16-2020 at 9:30 am CST
at Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Date and Time Issued Telephonically


VERONICA L. DUFFY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

REDACTED ATTACHMENT A

Property to be Searched

This warrant applies to records and information associated with the cellular telephone assigned call [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA
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REDACTED RETURN

Date and time warrant executed: _____

Copy of warrant and inventory left with: _____

Inventory made in the presence of: _____

Inventory of the property taken and name of any person(s) seized (attach additional sheets, if necessary):

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATION</p>
<p>I declare under penalty of perjury that this inventory is correct and was returned along with the original warrant to the designated judge.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">_____ Daniel Byron, Special Agent Drug Enforcement Administration</p>